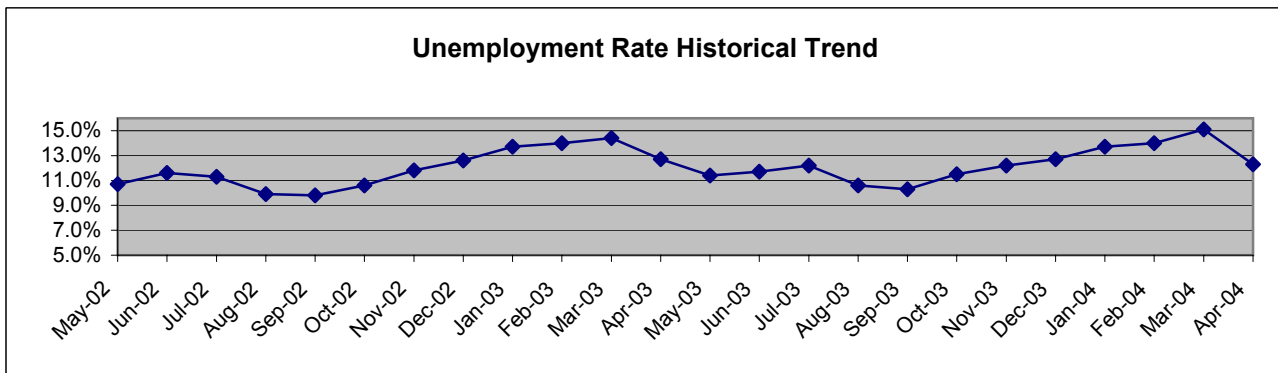


IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
BAKERSFIELD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA (MSA)  
(Kern County)

The unemployment rate in Kern County was 12.3 percent in April 2004, down from a revised 15.1 percent in March 2004, and below the year-ago estimate of 12.7 percent. This compares with an unadjusted unemployment rate of 6.1 percent for California and 5.4 percent for the nation during the same period.



Industry	Month to month changes			Year to year changes		
	Mar 2004	Apr 2004	Change	Apr 2003	Apr 2004	Change
Total Jobs	234,200	245,800	11,600	245,600	245,800	200
Farm Jobs	26,000	37,000	11,000	38,000	37,000	(1,000)
Nonfarm Jobs	208,200	208,800	600	207,600	208,800	1,200
Natural Resources and Mining	8,000	8,100	100	7,900	8,100	200
Construction	13,500	13,800	300	13,500	13,800	300
Manufacturing	12,700	12,800	100	12,600	12,800	200
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	39,900	39,900	0	39,200	39,900	700
Information	2,600	2,600	0	2,600	2,600	0
Financial Activities	8,400	8,400	0	8,300	8,400	100
Professional and Business Services	22,000	22,000	0	21,400	22,000	600
Educational and Health Services	21,800	21,700	(100)	21,300	21,700	400
Leisure and Hospitality	18,000	18,100	100	17,900	18,100	200
Other Services	7,100	7,000	(100)	6,900	7,000	100
Government	54,200	54,400	200	56,000	54,400	(1,600)

Notes - Data not adjusted for seasonality

- Data may not add due to rounding

Additional data are available on-line at <http://www.calmis.ca.gov>